

and I have advocated for a modernized approach to career and technical education programs and apprenticeship opportunities across the United States.

As part of our commitment, we worked in conjunction with members of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce to introduce H.R. 5587, the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act.

This bipartisan legislation aims to help Americans acquire the skills necessary to compete for high-wage, high-demand jobs. Notably, the bill encourages stronger public-private partnerships, increases opportunities for apprenticeships and credentialing, and strengthens support for academic counseling.

H.R. 5587 overwhelmingly passed the House in September, demonstrating the enthusiastic support for career and technical education. I remain dedicated to moving this bill through the legislative process and providing a path forward to those who are looking to better their lives.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BARNARD "BARNEY" KING, III

(Mr. DOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Barney King of Evanston, Illinois. He passed away on November 4 at the age of 73. He is survived by his wife, Peggy; his sister, Leeanne; his children, Tyler, Caroline and Jamie; and grandchildren, John Henry, Harry, Sofia, Wesley, and Stela.

I got to know Barney through his children, Caroline and Jamie, and I knew the moment I met him that this was going to be a lifelong friend. Barney was well known in the community for his love of his attire—he was a snappy dresser—and his love of life. He could often be found playing croquet or fishing for muskie, traveling with his family, or playing the drums for the Mustangs party band or playing a game of chance over a few adult beverages. Anyone who ever played with him knew, one tie, all tie.

He was also a very generous man, serving as the president of the National Association of General Merchandise Representatives, the president of the Northern Illinois Hockey League, or an area that he encouraged me to get involved in as the president and director of Santa's Volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, our community owes Barney a great debt of gratitude for his service to our community. My thoughts and prayers remain with his family in this difficult time.

THE ROSE: THE NATIONAL FLORAL EMBLEM OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, November 20 of this year marks 30 years since President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation declaring the rose as the National Floral Emblem of the United States of America. The rose takes its rightful place as one of our Nation's symbols, along with the American flag, our national motto—In God We Trust—and our national anthem.

Based in Shreveport, Louisiana, the American Rose Society promotes the appreciation of the rose and proudly bears the heritage of being the oldest single-plant horticultural society in our country.

The American Rose Center's gardens also display over 65 separate gardens and 20,000 different rosebushes for visitors, enthusiasts, and gardeners to all enjoy.

I join the American Rose Society in celebrating this occasion, remembering the words of President Ronald Reagan from 30 years ago: "The American people have long held a special place in their hearts for roses. Let us continue to cherish them, to honor the love and devotion they represent, and to bestow them on all we love just as God has bestowed them on us."

CONGRATULATING GRASS VALLEY SURGERY CENTER

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Grass Valley Surgery Center located in Nevada County in northern California for being recognized as the California Ambulatory Surgery Association's ACS of the year.

This award, which acknowledges the excellent strides that have been made in the areas of engagement, advocacy, quality, education, and community involvement, serves as a testament to the hard work and dedication displayed by the administration, surgeons, physicians, and staff on hand at the Grass Valley Surgery Center.

I visited several times the location and had an opportunity to tour the surgery center and learn more about the high-quality, cost-effective services they provide, including procedures in general surgery, gynecology, orthopedic, pain management, podiatry, and urology.

I am very grateful for their presence, as are our constituents in northern California and Grass Valley. This serves as a model of how to make health care more efficient and reach more people in the United States.

Congratulations to them on this recognition.

NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRAT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) is

recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to come to the House floor tonight to commemorate National Bible Week. We are truly blessed to live in a nation where we are free to worship and read the Holy Scriptures without fear of persecution. There are so many places throughout the world where such freedoms do not exist.

In 1941, 75 years ago, mere days before Pearl Harbor, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt declared the week of Thanksgiving to be National Bible Week. Every U.S. President down to today has likewise declared this time of year to be National Bible Week.

The National Bible Association, in agreement with the U.S. Conference of Bishops, has designated the specific days of November 13 to 19 as National Bible Week this year. This is the week that we can all agree is National Bible Week, and we can recognize the Bible as a foundational building block of Western civilization, the Judeo-Christian heritage, and the legacy that motivated and shaped the founding of the United States.

In this hour, we will hear from Members of Congress about why the Bible is important and what it means to them. We are here to recognize National Bible Week.

My own experience with the Bible began in 1973, when I was an 18-year-old freshman at the University of Kansas. I was approached by some people who asked me if I knew what was in the Bible. I said that I believed I knew what it was all about, however, I had never read any of it for myself. The only honest thing I could do at that point was to read it for myself. When I read the Gospel of John, I ended up discovering a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, who became my Lord and Savior. In that Gospel, He said: I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but through Me.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know where in their spiritual journey people may be who are listening tonight, but I do know this: it is better to read the Bible for oneself and not just to take someone else's word for what is in it. For me, it made all of the difference in the world.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate National Bible Week, we remember the importance of faith in both our private and public lives. We recognize the Bible's powerful message of hope. We cherish the wisdom of the Bible, and we thank God for providing this Holy

Book that has been truly a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES) who is a valuable member of the Armed Services and Judiciary Committees. Representative RANDY FORBES will be leaving Congress at the end of this year, and he will be truly and sorely missed.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. LAMBORN for his work in this area and for doing this Special Order. Mr. LAMBORN talked about the impact the Bible had on his life. The Bible began having an impact on my life long before I was born.

This little book is over 75 years old. It is called the "Heart-Shield Bible." Inside of it, it has my father's name, and it says: "From Mother and Daddy." It was given to him when he was 19 years old, just before he left to go fight in World War II. He ended up at Normandy, not with the initial invasion, but a little while after that. Somewhere in Europe—I don't know where it was—he opened this book and he read it.

Now, the theory of this book was it had a gold plate on the front, and it was supposed to be put in your pocket and protect your heart if you were shot. I don't know that it ever did that, but it changed his heart. He made a promise in those foxholes that if he got back home, he would have his family—which he didn't have at the time—in church every single Sunday. I know a lot of GIs made promises that they left when they got on the ship to come back. He never did.

So that little book that he read not only transformed his life, not only gave him the courage and the faith to get through that war, but it changed his children and his grandchildren, and it continues to change his great-grandchildren to this day.

In my office I always kept a Scripture and something that was offered by Chaplain Peter Marshall on the floor of the Senate on March 18, 1948.

It said this: "Our Father in Heaven, save us from the conceit which refuses to believe that God knows more about government than we do, and the stubbornness that will not seek God's help. Today we claim Thy promise: 'If any man lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all men liberally and it shall be given to him.' Thou knowest, Lord, how much we need it. Make us willing to ask for it and eager to have it. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen."

That Scripture from James 1:5 should serve as a guidepost for those in leadership today.

Our Nation is on the cusp of great opportunities, but our future, nevertheless, remains fraught with challenges. America is at a crossroads. Each of us must, with humility, seek wisdom and truth as we make decisions in the days ahead.

I can think of no single book that offers that wisdom and truth more than the Bible. I thank Mr. LAMBORN again for allowing me to be here.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia. I appreciate the words, the wisdom, and the heartfelt nature of what he just spoke to.

I yield to the gentleman from the great State of Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his efforts tonight to call attention to this.

Mr. Speaker, I am thankful for the opportunity we are afforded here to speak of the impact of the Bible in our lives as well, and, more importantly, the impact the Bible can have on all lives.

I was a young boy when I was encouraged to memorize a simple little verse, John 3:16, which said: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believe in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

When I put my name in that place in the world, it meant everything in the world to me. With Jesus Christ as my savior, it has impacted my life.

Mr. Speaker, noted historian, Will Durant, once stated: "The greatest question of our time is not communism versus individualism, not Europe versus America, and not the East versus the West, it is whether men can live without God."

Mr. Speaker, that question, it now appears, will be answered in our own time.

□ 1745

God has left us with a direct message on life and how to live life with God, and that message is the Bible, a book that is, sadly, being pushed out of the mainstream of our country in many ways. Sadly, we are seeing the results in broken homes, dysfunctional societies, upheaval that is going on. Sadly, those results impact us here in government as well. Yes, we can still read the Bible, but freedom to live it out is in question, and I wonder why.

Dostoyevsky stated it this way. He said: "When God is dead, anything is permissible."

And Joseph Stalin suggested that "America is like a healthy body and its resistance is threefold, its patriotism, its morality, its spiritual life . . . If we can undermine these three areas, America will collapse from within."

Mr. Speaker, these are sobering statements.

The Bible that we honor in a special way today and throughout this week addresses the preceding statements with great clarity when it affirms in Proverbs 14:34: "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."

This is why I believe a signer of the Declaration of Independence named Jonathan Whitherspoon declared it this way. He said: "A republic once equally poised must either preserve its virtue or lose its liberty." Whitherspoon, who was also a minister, made this statement in the context of

virtue being defined by God's truth as contained in the Bible.

I am certain that he could have quoted Psalm 1, as it says: "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of the sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in his law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper. The ungodly are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind drives away. Therefore, the ungodly shall not stand in judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish."

It was words of a psalmist. Plainly, honoring the Bible in one's life brings success, while rejection of the Biblical truth brings defeat.

Mr. Speaker, one of my favorite Bible verses, a verse that means a lot to me as I think at the end of each day and pray and ask certain questions in my own life, is II Timothy 2:15. It says: "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth." In that simple, eloquent, little verse, it says in the end what matters. First, is God pleased with your day? Has his work been done well? And, finally, has the Word, the Bible, been used well? If the Bible has been used well by individuals or a nation, we will do well.

John Clifford wrote a poem that I will end with today. In that poem he says this:

"Last eve I paused beside the blacksmith's door, and heard the anvil ring the vesper chime;

Then looking in, I saw upon the floor, old hammers, worn with beating years of time.

'How many anvils have you had,' said I, 'to wear and batter all these hammers so?'

'Just one,' said he, and then with twinkling eye,

'The anvil wears the hammers out, you know.'

And so, I thought, the anvil of God's Word for ages skeptic blows have beat upon;

Yet, though the noise of falling blows was heard, the anvil is unharmed, the hammers gone."

Isaiah 40:8 confirms: "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God," the Bible, "stands forever."

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his words.

In a moment, we are going to hear from Representative VIRGINIA FOXX of North Carolina. But let me briefly mention first how the Bible was foundational to the development of our country.

Many of the early American settlers came to the New World with the express purpose of following the Bible according to the convictions of their own

consciences. One of the first acts of Congress during the tumultuous beginning of our Nation was the authorization of an American published Bible. The war with the British had cut off the States' supply of Bibles from England. Our Founding Fathers understood how important it was for the American people to have Bibles, so in 1782, Congress reviewed, approved, and authorized the first known English language Bible to be printed in America.

Throughout American history, many of our great leaders have turned to the Bible for guidance, hope, and faith. President Abraham Lincoln once said of the Bible, in regard to this great book: "I have but to say, it is the best gift God has given to man. All the good the Savior gave to the world was communicated through this book. But for it we could not know right from wrong. All things most desirable for man's welfare, here and hereafter, are to be found portrayed in it."

And President Ronald Reagan, in his own National Bible Week declaration, which we are celebrating this week, wrote, when he was in office:

When I took the oath of office, I requested the Bible be open to II Chronicles 7:14, which reads: "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." This passage expresses my hopes for the future of this Nation and the world.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX).

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) for organizing this Special Order tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I am rising also to join my colleagues to commemorate the 75th annual celebration of National Bible Week. And I want to thank all of my colleagues for giving us such wonderful history lessons and quotes about how important the Bible has always been to our country, and particularly to the Founders of our country.

As I stand here tonight, I am looking straight up at the full face of Moses looking down on us. When I have people in the Chamber, I point out to them that around the top of the Chamber are profiles of ancient lawgivers. The only full-face figure is that of Moses, who looks straight down on the Speaker's podium. I think that it is so important that people understand that we are a Judeo-Christian country and that the Bible, both the Old and New Testament, are so important to us.

As we approach this celebration, Mr. Speaker, which is traditionally held during the week of Thanksgiving, it is important to take a moment and reflect on how this Good Book has changed the course of history, stood as a guiding light for the world, shaped our Nation, and inspired countless lives.

The Bible is a precious gift from God to his people that teaches us how we ought to relate to our Creator and how

to love our fellow human beings during times of turmoil, confusion, and strife. I can think of no more important source of guidance than this deep repository of fundamental and universal truth.

It offers us hope when circumstances are dire and is a source of strength when our human frailty brings us low. When we are surrounded by darkness, as the psalmist wrote, the Bible "is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path."

I hope it will be encouraging to the American people to know that there are people in the Capitol who make every effort to live their lives by the precepts of the Bible. We have many Bible studies and prayer groups that meet every week here. In fact, the National Prayer Breakfast grew out of our weekly bipartisan prayer breakfast in both the House and the Senate. I have collected some of the stories told in the House prayer breakfast in a book called "God Is in the House," which people are telling me is a great inspiration to them.

Today, I offer a prayer of gratefulness for this gift of God's Word and encourage my fellow Americans to dig deep into the Good Book and discover for themselves what riches it has in store for them.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her well-spoken remarks and the heartfelt nature of what she shared.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JODY B. HICE).

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for leading this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, I rise, as have my colleagues, to celebrate one of the most significant and remarkable books in human history—certainly to my life—and that is the Bible. As a servant of Christ and, in fact, a pastor for nearly 30 years, it is my honor to join all of my colleagues this evening in recognizing the importance of the Bible and its incredible impact on my life, on many of our lives, and certainly on the life of our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, the Bible speaks to the greatness of God. It speaks that he is the object of true worship, that he is the fount of all blessings, and that he is, in fact, our redeemer, our friend, our savior, and our judge.

I don't even know where to start when it comes to having favorite verses. There are just so many. I read it daily. It is a part of the beginning of every day of my life. But one of those verses that I believe is so appropriate for right now comes from Hebrews 4:12 that really deals with the importance of God's Word in our lives. It very simply says that the Word of God is alive and active, that it is sharper than any double-edged sword, that it penetrates even to the dividing of soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and it judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

I think our country has pretty much always recognized the unseen power of

Almighty God as it relates to our fortunes as well as our destiny; and I believe now, more than ever, our Nation would do well to return again to the Bible for guidance in these critical days that we are facing.

This week, communities, pastors, churches, and leaders all across America are going to be celebrating National Bible Week. They are going to be reading it. They are going to be reflecting on it. They are going to be talking about, in discussions and so forth, just how the Bible can help each of us lead a better life, frankly, because it points us to personal forgiveness and personal life transformation through faith in Jesus Christ.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is our responsibility as leaders in this country to remind Americans of the significance of the Bible to our individual lives, to our history, to our national life, and certainly to the culture that we have here in America.

One of our late Presidents, Theodore Roosevelt, actually did this while he was in a conversation with the son of a very close friend of his who was entering the mission field, and this statement, I believe, just says so much in this regard. He said:

I have told you so many times that I consider the Christian ministry as the highest calling in the world, most intimately related to the most exalted life and service here and destiny beyond.

But then, as President, he said this:

And I consider it my greatest joy and glory that, occupying a most exalted position in the Nation, I am enabled, simply and sincerely, to preach the practical moralities of the Bible to my fellow countrymen and to hold up Christ as the hope and savior of the world.

□ 1800

What a statement by one of our Presidents.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to again commend my good friend, DOUG LAMBORN, for holding this Special Order. Obviously, we gain tremendous insight, inspiration, and guidance from the Scriptures. The light of God's Word shines through us most when we hold fast to these principles and apply them to our daily lives. Again, I thank the gentleman for this opportunity.

Mr. LAMBORN. I thank the gentleman from the great State of Georgia for being here, for sharing, and for his background. People come to Congress with all kinds of different backgrounds, and having one or more pastors, which we do here in the body, adds a valuable thread of experience and thought that helps us all.

One reason many people respect the Bible is that so many prophecies for telling future events have come true exactly as foretold. In the Old Testament, there are many predictions that were given to prove if a speaker were divinely inspired. If and when these predictions came true, it validated the words of that prophet. The Book of Daniel, for instance, contains scores of detailed prophecies that were literally

fulfilled. Skeptics have fallen back to the position that Daniel must have been written after the fact and is misrepresenting itself. In fact, Daniel is found in its entirety in the Greeks' Septuagint and partially in the Dead Sea Scrolls, both of which we know predated the events that were prophesied. The rise and fall of empires, the capture and destruction of cities, and the destiny of kings all were prophesied about in minute detail, and archeology and history have literally confirmed hundreds of such prophecies as having come true.

I now yield to a friend, the gentleman from the great State of North Carolina, ROBERT PITTENGER.

Mr. PITTENGER. I thank Congressman LAMBORN so much for his leadership on this. What an inspiring evening.

Mr. Speaker, as a little boy, I was taught that little song: "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." Now, I am no Cliff Barrows, but I have carried that song with me my whole life. In fact, I do want to make a testament about Cliff Barrows, for he went to be with the Lord today. Cliff Barrows—a great saint who led the crusades for Dr. Billy Graham for nearly 70 years—is now singing praises in Heaven. I was thinking earlier that Cliff will be greeting those tens of thousands of people who come forward, singing just as I am.

As we look at the Word of God, we find truth. As we read in John, Chapter 1: "In the beginning, it was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God."

Now, I didn't know that Word until November 2, 1969, at 10:30 p.m., on a Sunday night, when I gave my life to Christ. I wasn't too theological. I just said: "Lord, I give up. You lead my life." When that happened, I had an insatiable desire to read the Word of God. I would stay up, when I was a senior in college, and I would read the Word of God at midnight and later on into the early morning because it fed my spirit, it fed my soul, and it gave me direction in my life.

I didn't know much about the Bible. I went to church. I guess they drug me to church, for you can still see the heel marks in the ground. I knew a lot about church, but I didn't know a lot about His Word; so I went out to a place that was the Campus Crusade for Christ. They had a mini seminary for 6 weeks, and I learned more there about the Word of God. I then ended up joining the Campus Crusade and was there for 10 years.

I went through a couple of years of seminary classes, but the Word of God is what gave me stability in my life and is what gave me perspective in my knowing that He knew much better about me and my future and had a greater wisdom about my life than I knew and that the best that I could do was partake in His knowledge. The more I knew about Him, the greater

my life and the more peaceful my life and the more direction I would have in my life to fulfill His God-given mission.

So the Word of God is our hope. It is the hope for this country. Frankly, in reality, the more our Nation is right in a vertical path with Him, horizontally, we will be in good shape the more we are consistent with the precepts of His Word.

Frankly, George Washington knew that. On one occasion, I was down at Mount Vernon. Many years ago, I was here, working with Dr. and Mrs. Bill Bright as they started the Christian Embassy back in the mid-1970s, and we went down to Mount Vernon. In the casing was the Bible that George Washington read from. It was all marked through. He knew the Word of God. He studied it. I have read his diaries. He went every Wednesday night to vespers. He rode on his horse to church every Sunday. He committed himself to knowing the Word of God. That is why he became the great leader that he was.

So I thank the gentleman, Mr. LAMBORN, for his leadership, for his heart, for his understanding, for his perspective, and for committing himself to giving honor to the Word of God tonight.

Mr. LAMBORN. I thank the gentleman and appreciate his remarks.

Let me say something about manuscripts, which are the historical evidence for the text of the Bible. The Bible that we acknowledge during this National Bible Week has come down to us in history through manuscripts that were written centuries or millennia ago. These manuscripts are more numerous by an order of magnitude than any other classical text and go back much closer to the time of origin than any classical text.

For instance, the Histories of Herodotus, which, actually, I read recently, are based on eight manuscripts that come about 1,300 years after the original version. By contrast, the New Testament has over 20,000 manuscripts, some of which go back mere decades after the original version. The Dead Sea Scrolls proved that the Hebrew text of the Old Testament, which came down from other sources, is, indeed, accurate and reliable to the letter.

I now yield to the gentleman from Ohio, Representative BILL JOHNSON, my friend and colleague.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. I, too, want to thank my colleague from Georgia—not from Georgia but from Colorado. I have lived all over the country, so I get confused about where some of my colleagues are from. I thank my colleague from Colorado for doing this this evening.

God's Word has meant so much to me in my life. I can remember being a young boy and being raised on that two-wheel, wagon-rut mule farm, where every day was a survival day—no indoor plumbing, up before dawn, going to bed way after dark. Every day was a

workday except Sunday. I remember going with my grandfather, who was a superintendent of the local church. As a very young boy, he would let me hold onto the rope as he would pull the bell to signal that it was time for the community to come to worship. The rope would swing me up into the rafters, and my grandfather would stand there, making sure I didn't fall and hurt myself. It was like going to Six Flags for me as a kid.

I remember, as a young boy, being exposed to the words in this book when I was in the backroom of that little church, learning for the first time the great stories of the patriarchs and matriarchs of the Scriptures: Abraham, Jacob, Isaac, Moses, King David, the Apostle Paul, and, of course, our Savior Jesus Christ. I went through my life with some of those foundational faith principles that were taught to me at that point. All of my life, I wanted to find out where all of that came from.

I had an opportunity to visit the nation of Israel—the Holy Land—in 2014. I thought about that visit before I went, and I thought I would like for this to be more than just an official visit. I would like for it to be personally meaningful; so I prayed about that. I said, "God, can you let me get something from this visit that I can take back and share that will be revealing?" and he did. As I walked in the footsteps of Abraham, across the Hebron valley—when he was taking Isaac to Mount Moriah—and when I stood on the Temple Mount, when I stood in the Garden Tomb, a revelation came to me, and that is the reason that America's heart is so intertwined with our friends in Israel—it is that our lineage is one and the same.

The Scriptures tell us that a little place that is a little southwest of modern-day Jerusalem is where God told Jacob: Your name is no longer going to be Jacob, but your name is going to be Israel; and I am going to make a nation come from you, and this shall be your land.

It occurred to me at that point that our lineage and the lineage of the nation of Israel is exactly one and the same because, if you go back to our founding documents—to our Declaration of Independence—it claims that our unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness come not from man, not from government, not from Presidents or from legislative bodies, but from our Creator.

John Adams said that the Constitution of the United States is a document that is designed to govern a people who live by Christian principles and that it is wholly inadequate for any other. Today, we seem to think that you have to be perfect to experience God's redemption in your life.

I am reminded of First Chronicles, Chapter 4, the story of Jabez. He prayed: O God that You would bless me, indeed, that You would expand my territory, that Your hand would be

upon me, and that You would keep me from evil that I might not cause pain.

We never hear about Jabez at any other time in the Bible, but we know what God said to him. Because Jabez was a righteous man, God answered his prayer. You will notice that the Scriptures didn't say because Jabez was a perfect man. They said because Jabez was a righteous man—that he had a heart after the Father's.

In America today, we hear about so much of the division and of even division here within the legislative branch—within parties and across party aisles. We sometimes forget that the Bible talks about politics. You will hear oftentimes “don't mix religion and politics.” The Bible talks about politics. Go read Daniel, Chapter 6. Daniel, Chapter 6 is like a session of Congress. We all know the story.

Daniel was an overseer who was appointed by the king. He was selected as a commissioner, one of the leaders of the overseers, like a leader here in the House, perhaps. Some of the people didn't like how much favor Daniel was getting with the king, and they began to conspire against him. You know the story. They set it up so that Daniel had to be thrown in the lions' den. We know that God spared Daniel and shut the mouths of the lions, and the conspirators suffered the same fate. They were fed to the lions by the king.

Yet we don't go far enough into that to remember what Daniel did as a politician. You see, Daniel never went to the king and said: Hey, you have abandoned me. You stabbed me in the back. I have been your guy all of this time, and now you are going to throw me to the lions after I have stood up for you all of this time?

He never went to his other commissioners and said: I thought you guys were with me. I thought we were all in this together, and now you are conspiring against me.

No. What Daniel did was he said: King, I am your guy. I am still going to be your guy, but what I am not going to do is give up my principles upon which I stand—my belief and faith in my God. If you want to throw me in the lions' den, throw me in the lions' den.

You see, Daniel knew something that we as leaders—that we as a nation—need to get back in touch with, which is that God doesn't expect us to do His job. Daniel knew he was not the changer; rather, he was the change agent.

□ 1815

We are here for a short time to simply be salt and light. That is our role. Yet, today we get distracted by everything that comes across the news media or the Internet. We believe it to be the truth when this document, this book, is the author of truth.

John 8:31-32 says: Jesus said to the Jews that believed in Him, “. . . abide in my word and you will truly be my disciples; and you will see the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

Folks, much of what ails our Nation—much of what ails our Nation could be solved if we would simply get back in touch with our first true love, the true love that is proclaimed in our Declaration of Independence and our Constitution and that our Founders believed in, the author of truth. It is found in this book.

Thank you to my colleague for allowing me a few minutes to speak tonight. I have wanted to do this for a long time. God bless you.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative JOHNSON for what he shared. It is truly appropriate for this National Bible Week. I appreciate how he talked about the ties between Christianity and Judaism and the Judeo-Christian ethic, which ties it all together and how you observed that during your recent trip to Israel.

There are many archeological discoveries which have validated Biblical accounts, giving trustworthiness to the Bible we acknowledge during this National Bible Week. Time and time again, archeology has shown the Biblical personalities, locations, and events actually existed in time and space. Claims by critics that a Biblical statement was simply made up have been debunked by later archeological discoveries more times than we can say.

The Jewish archaeologist Nelson Glueck has said: “It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted or contradicted a biblical reference.”

I now yield time to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA). He will talk about this National Bible Week.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN), who not only shares the first 13 letters of our combined names, but a deep reverence and recognition of the importance of the Bible in our Christian faith.

So I am glad to be able to join you and our other colleagues here in recognizing the 75th anniversary of National Bible Week.

The Bible is indeed the living, unerring Word of God. The Founders recognized that, as the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON) alluded to. Indeed, our form of government is more successful when we follow a standard that is separate from ourselves, a standard that lives in a timeless space, beyond what today's fads are and what today's feelings or thoughts are. The Bible is unerring in that since it is the Word of God. So it is for us to recognize this and put those words into action.

Some might say: Well, why are they talking about the Bible on the House floor? Why are they talking about religion and mixing that in with government?

Well, the Founders provided not freedom from religion, but freedom to express our religions, no matter what type it is in this country. Still, this one is based largely on Christianity and the Judeo-Christian values we

have, but there is the freedom to express other ones as well.

In these times, there are those who would try to oppress those with false gods, worship of nature, worship of things, and subdue our abilities to worship as we please. In these times, these oppressions seem to be more and more apparent all the time.

Still, we soldier on and we ask God's guidance and pray for the light to be shown to others on what this is. This is not a judgmental thing. We don't judge others. God is the judge. We live by a code that is in the Bible or we try to.

One important verse, Romans 3:23, says: “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

That is why we have to seek Him; we all fall short. It is not judging of one versus the other because they are all in the same lot.

So there are many places you can point to in the Bible that has much wisdom. I recommend you read the whole thing. I, at this point, am reading it front to back. I have never really done that before, read it all the way through. I am in Acts right now. In life, when you go to Bible school, Sunday school, or through church, you maybe tend to hop and skip around. But reading the Bible front to back, it really becomes fascinating.

Every word in there is in there for a purpose. Even when you are reading through a whole list of names you may have never heard of or hear of again—so-and-so begot so-and-so and lived 120 years and then he died and things like that—it may not be apparent in the beginning, but there is an important reason why those words are in there. They are in there to chronicle time, to chronicle who was important in those early days all the way through to the prophesy you find in Revelation, which is very, very important to understand what our future may hold.

So some of the things I like to live by: you can find so much in Proverbs, which indeed much of it could be seen as perhaps a book of best practices, tools to use in life. Much of Proverbs is the document laid down by King Solomon to his son, Rehoboam—the best practices in speaking to his son.

A portion that I like especially and is a part of what I like to use as a model for conduct in this difficult role we find ourselves in as elected officials in a town full of temptation, full of possible bad choices that we have seen others who have fallen to these bad choices is in Proverbs 4:18-27.

It says: “The path of the righteous is like the morning sun, shining ever brighter till the full light of day. But the work of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble. My son, pay attention to what I say; turn your ear to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart for they are like life to those who find them and health to one's whole body. Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. Keep

your mouth free of perversity; keep corrupt talk far from your lips. Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you. Give careful thought to the paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways. Do not turn to the left or the right; keep your feet from evil," which indeed in this business keeping on that right path, do not be drawn into temptation, do not go to the left or the right where evil might be.

Best practices are in Proverbs. Indeed it is one of my favorites, but there is so much to be gleaned from reading all the way through the Bible and going back and understanding what that means. This is why small-group Bible study is important. Our church leaders who are imbued with this knowledge, you can learn from that and apply that to your life and be successful in your life not only here, but in the very important hereafter.

Our Founders were inspired by that. When you take the perfect unerring effect of the Bible and apply that to maybe what is the closest as possible to perfect of something created by man: our Constitution, our Bill of Rights, what came from the Declaration of Independence. They were inspired by Biblical truths. That is why, in this unjudgmental way that we try to live, they are almost perfect documents because they are divinely inspired by the Bible.

So as we celebrate the special anniversary this week, know that my colleagues here are indeed well-meaning in sharing this. From Genesis to Revelation, you will find the truth in there, which is a very profoundly powerful message.

I thank the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) for the time and for having this Special Order tonight on this very important and profound week of recognition for our Bible.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) for sharing those thoughts with us.

The Pacific Ocean all the way to the Atlantic is covered by our speakers today. We had East Coast speakers from Virginia, North Carolina, and Georgia. We had a speaker from Michigan up on the Canadian border. And our next speaker will be from Texas on our southern border. So the entire country is represented. That is fitting because National Bible Week is for the entire country. It is the 75th anniversary of this celebration.

So the entire country of America has been blessed throughout history, as we talked about several times already tonight. It is so appropriate that we can have speakers from all over the country.

I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, this is the 75th anniversary of National Bible Week. Isn't it interesting that National Bible Week was first proclaimed 2 weeks before World War II broke out?

The Nation really rallied and rallied behind Franklin Roosevelt's call to pray together, the President that went on national radio on D-day and led the Nation in prayer. I am sure if he were to try to do that today if he were alive, then people would be freaking out that the President was leading in prayer like that.

There are so many examples from World War II where we could say: Wow, wasn't that a coincidence? The Germans ran out of gas at just the right time. This German general or commander got confused at just the time they were about to get enough gasoline to refill and refuel and keep the Battle of the Bulge going. There are so many little things.

A fellow in Iowa earlier this year had told me that coincidence is what we have when you don't notice God's at work. I am still chewing on that.

In the first hundred years, about a hundred years after the founding, the U.S. Supreme Court had a case involving Trinity Church. They went through and reviewed all the evidence and declared this is a Christian nation. It didn't mean everybody in America was a Christian at all. Nobody has to be. They have the freedom to say God doesn't exist.

The freedom that comes from a government based on Biblical word is a freedom that cannot be obtained under any other religious teaching. That is why, when I had a chance to meet Retired General Jay Garner again back in September, I asked him again: What happened?

President George W. Bush sent him over into Iraq and asked him to find out what the Iraqi people felt like we should try to give them as a government.

Now, I would say let them choose their own government. We shouldn't be trying to push anything.

General Garner did a brilliant job, but he went with some other people—one was a reporter and he had people from the administration with him—and he was told: "You have got to talk to this direct descendant of Muhammad and see what he says, because people really listen to him being a direct descendant of Muhammad."

A black turban also is an indication apparently of being a direct descendant of Muhammad, from what we were told.

Then he said: Look, I am going to tell you what I think we need here in Iraq. I will do that in my language, and then I will tell you in English since you are recording everything.

And so he spoke for quite some time. And then he said: Okay, in a nutshell, what I have said is basically we need a government that is composed of Iraqis and that it is based on a constitution that Iraqis put together and that constitution is based on the teachings of Jesus.

And General Garner, when he got outside, he turned to the reporter and everybody and asked: "Did you guys all hear that? Did he really—"

They all said "yes." He said it should be based on the teachings of Jesus.

When you think about it, it makes perfect sense. If you base a government on the teachings of anyone else, then ultimately there will not be true freedom in that nation.

□ 1830

This is a New Testament that belonged to my uncle, and it has "May the Lord be with you." It has this brass plate here on the front, and people were encouraged to put it in their pocket to see if it would save—it apparently saved some lives right over the heart. Inside the flyleaf at the top it says:

"The White House, Washington. As Commander in Chief, I take pleasure in commending the reading of the Bible to all who serve in the Armed Forces of the United States. Throughout the centuries, men of many faiths and diverse origins have found in the Sacred Book words of wisdom, counsel and inspiration. It is a fountain of strength and now, as always, an aid in attaining the highest aspirations of the human soul."

It is signed Franklin D. Roosevelt.

If you look back at our history, the very first book authorized to be published by the U.S. Congress at government expense was the Bible. You had the Supreme Court in the first 50 years saying: of course the Bible should be taught; it is the best book for teaching our children. And now the government says: really, Christians are a big hate group that we need to worry about, and that their talk of Christianity is actually hate speech, homophobia, and Islamophobia.

What these people who have become wise in their own eyes don't realize is that really this book, this Bible, is about love, that God so loved the world that He gave His Son, and that His Son so loved the world that He gave His life. That is a religion based on love. Jesus went on to say the two great commandments: love God, love each other.

After I became a parent and my mother was about to die, and she said her favorite thing was her kids being there with her and loving each other, it made all the sense in the world.

This Bible makes sense, from the prophecies Mr. LAMBORN spoke of, when you read Psalm 22—"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"—it is just verse after verse of prophecy of what was fulfilled by only one person in the history of man.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Texas and all the other speakers who joined us during this hour. It has been really wonderful to recognize and commemorate the 75th anniversary of National Bible Week.

I would like to thank the National Bible Association—the other NBA—for offering to provide some historical artifacts, which for logistical reasons we were not actually able to bring here in

person, ancient Jewish and Protestant and Catholic texts that we could have used as well to read from. I just want to thank each Member here, and I am glad that we have had 75 years of celebrating this wonderful event. It has been a great part of our national heritage.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

MAKE IT IN AMERICA

THE SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BUCK). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity here to discuss something that we have talked about now for almost 7 years. It is called infrastructure. It is called Make It In America. It is all about American bridges falling down.

This is the bridge in Washington State as one approaches the British Columbia boundary, Interstate 5, the interstate that runs from the Canadian border to the Mexican border. And on this particular day, you couldn't get there because the bridge collapsed. Not unusual. All across America, there are tens of thousands of bridges that are in a state of imminent collapse, downright dangerous. But, hey, we don't have any other way to get across the river, so take your chances. After all, it is American infrastructure.

There was a lot of discussion in the last presidential campaign about infrastructure, a lot of hooting and shouting, and maybe in the months ahead some progress. Last year this Congress, together with the Senate and with President Obama's signature, passed a 5-year surface transportation bill. Good. Very good. However, there's not even enough money in it to maintain our bridges so that they don't fall down. So we need to get on with rebuilding America.

I could probably quote the words of the President-elect or the Democratic nominee who didn't successfully win that election, but they would all come down to the same thing: we need to build our infrastructure. And indeed we do. In doing so, we are going to put people to work, lots of people to work if we do it right.

Here is how you multiply the effect of infrastructure construction on the employment. There is no doubt, for every dollar we spend on infrastructure, we will grow the economy by a little more than \$2, and we will put several tens of thousands of people to work if we spend a billion dollars or more. We know those statistics; they are out there, and they are true. But if you really, really want to grow this economy, and you want to bring manufacturing back to the United States, then you ought to pay attention to what we have been working on here for

the last 7 years, and this is what we call the Make It In America agenda.

Yes, that infrastructure is essential. But what if your tax dollars were spent on jobs in the United States, on American-made steel, American-made concrete, American-made rebars, structural elements of all kinds? What if your tax dollars were actually spent here in America rather than in that very sad, sad situation in California, in my California?

Oh, yes, let me put this up. This is an embarrassment. Oh, not this one. That one. You see, that is the San Francisco Bay bridge. It was completed about 4 years ago, 3 years ago now, and the original cost was somewhere around \$1 billion or so. It actually turned out to be some \$6 billion or more. But the thing that really, really was embarrassing is that the steel in that bridge was not American steel. It was Chinese steel. The toll dollars of those who cross this bridge for the next 50 years wind up in China, not in the United States, not in American steel mills, not in the pockets of American workers who are working those mills, and not in the pockets of the welders who put together the steel structures but, rather, in China's pocket.

Terrible embarrassment. Why did it happen? Well, they thought it would be about 10 percent cheaper. It didn't happen. It turned out that it was much, much more expensive. Why? Because the steel was of less quality, the welds weren't good, and the inspectors were Chinese and overlooked some of the problems.

Let me give you another example here. This is really embarrassing. For my California colleagues, please forgive me, but these are facts; and for all of us, pay attention. What happens when you build into a project, a buy America provision? What happens is American jobs and things are done well and things are done on time. The New York Tappan Zee bridge made with United States-produced steel, about a \$3.9 billion total cost, and 7,728 direct American jobs as a result of that steel being American steel. On time, on budget, and made in America.

So here is the deal, folks. If, Mr. President-elect, you want an infrastructure program, if you want to bring manufacturing back to America, then you better pay attention to this, which is Make It In America. Use our tax dollars, your tax dollars, the American tax dollars on American-made goods and services, not on something from some other place. This doesn't violate trade agreements; and if it does, those trade agreements ought to be changed. This is about rebuilding the American manufacturing sector.

Let me give you another example. Yes, one of my favorites. Another example, beyond the bridge, the Tappan Zee bridge, which is a very good example, and a very bad example, the Bay bridge, San Francisco Oakland Bay bridge. For those of you who don't know what a locomotive looks like,

that is an Amtrak locomotive, 100 percent made in America. But America doesn't build locomotives anymore. Well, that used to be true. Maybe a decade ago we didn't build locomotives. However, in the wisdom of this Congress and President Obama and the Senate, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act passed, otherwise known as the stimulus bill.

In the stimulus bill, there was written a few tens of billions of dollars to build locomotives—let me put it this way, to buy locomotives for the Amtrak system. This one is an electric locomotive for the Northeast corridor here on the East Coast. Somebody somewhere in that piece of legislation—maybe it was a Democrat, maybe it was a Republican, maybe it was a staffer, an independent, I don't know, but somebody wrote into that provision for the purchase of Amtrak locomotives, about 70 of them, actually a little more than 70 of them, that they must be not 10 percent American made, not 20, not 30, not 90, but 100 percent American made so that every single thing on that locomotive had to be American made.

Well, the great manufacturers in the United States—General Electric and General Motors—and some foreign manufacturers looked at that and said: 100 percent American made? It doesn't work. They don't build locomotives in the United States anymore. How could you build 100 percent American made?

Well, this little German company called Siemens, one of the biggest industrial companies in the entire world, said: How many billions involved here? Lots of zeros, lots of billions. Seventy locomotives, 100 percent American made. We are a German company, 100 percent. How many billions was that? I will tell you what. We will do it. And Siemens did it.

□ 1845

In the United States, they built that locomotive and about 60 some others in Sacramento, California, where there was no locomotive manufacturing plant until the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act became law and billions of dollars became available. That German company went to Sacramento, California, just outside my district where I spent more than 40 years representing the area, and said: We can do it. And they did it. And now they have contracts across this Nation to build in America not just locomotives like this but also railcars, light railcars, transit systems, and the like.

We can make it in America, and your tax dollars can actually be used to employ people in America and to build manufacturing systems in the United States if—and here is the key—in the months ahead, this Congress, working with the next President, actually decides that they are going to put into public policy that your tax dollars are going to be spent on American-made equipment.

Now, in that bill I talked about a little while ago, the FAST Act, which is